



SC State Park Service



SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

SC State Park Service

Mission

The Mission of the South Carolina State Park Service is to improve the quality of life and economic well being of the citizens of South Carolina by providing natural resource based recreational opportunities with emphasis on conservation, education, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the state.

Discover Carolina

Mission

The Mission of the *Discover Carolina* program is to provide hands-on discovery of South Carolina's natural and cultural resources at state parks and at the South Carolina State House to help school children develop an interest in learning and improve skills in math, science, history, social studies, and the language arts.

Why is *Discover Carolina* important to the SC State Park Service?

- Meets the State Park Service Mission
- Develops informed constituents which will support parks in the future as preserved resources
- Increased stewardship of the state's resources
- Complements existing programs offered by other Agencies

What do **Teachers** get from *Discover Carolina?*

- Curriculum based programs that help meet specific classroom goals
- Brings the classroom outside to visit the specific resource
- Hands-on experiential learning that meets multiple learning styles
- Programs that can be adapted to address special population's needs

What do **Teachers** get from *Discover Carolina?*

- Teacher review committees
- Teacher feedback through evaluation forms
- On-going evolution of a new initiative with improvement over time through teacher input
- Access to park resources



...History Tract

- Hampton Plantation State Historic Site
- Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site
- Musgrove Mill State Historic Site
- Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site
- Andrew Jackson State Park
- Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site
- Oconee Station State Historic Site
- Kings Mountain State Park
- The South Carolina State House





...Nature Tract

- Myrtle Beach State Park
- Huntington Beach State Park
- Edisto Beach State Park
- Hunting Island State Park
- Sesquicentennial State Park
- Lee State Park
- Table Rock State Park
- Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area
(Jones Gap and Caesars Head State Parks)



What do **Students** get from *Discover Carolina?*

- Grades mainly focused on Kindergarten through 8th grade with some high school
- Students will be using equipment that scientists and field biologists use, such as dichotomous keys, salinity meters, pH meters, binoculars, field guides, dip nets, microscopes, computer and video camera, sieves, and more

What do **Students** get from *Discover Carolina?*

- Introduction and reinforcement of concepts such as habitat, coexistence, watershed, water quality, diversity, interdependence, niche, competition, and more
- Development and reinforcement of process skills such as compare, analyze, classify, communicate, infer, group, measure, predict, identify, and more



Hunting Island State Park Example

As students get introduced to the various habitats of a barrier island, they will be using a dichotomous key and a quadrat to observe what plants and animals occur in each area, thus grouping these plants by ecotypes. They will be communicating their findings to classmates through graphs that show the abundance of specific organisms in specific habitats.

Jones Gap State Park Example



Students will be introduced to various mountain habitats through forest ecology and river ecology. They will test dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature of the water. They will use microscopes to observe organisms found in the water and learn the characteristics of these organisms to group them accordingly and make inferences about them in relation to other places.

Why use *Discover Carolina*?

- Curriculum Based
- Significant natural, cultural and historical resources of our State
- Hands-on, experiential learning

Benefits of *Discover Carolina Sites*

Logistical Benefits:

- Bus parking
- Restrooms
- Picnic lunch areas

Discover Carolina Sites Across the State

Pre-site Visit and Post-site Visit Activities

- All materials are included in teacher's packet
- Materials are mailed directly to teachers upon reservation or upon completion of your on-site visit
- Prepare students for visit to enhance learning opportunities on-site, plus follow up activities to reinforce what was learned on-site
- Lesson plans can be developed around these activities

Teacher Workshops

- Partnering with Clemson University to develop teacher workshops for continuing education credit
- Teacher-led programs
- 2010 Teacher's Course Grades 5-8
Science Emphasis

Check out our website...

www.discovercarolina.com

- Curriculum designed on approved SC Department of Education Template
- Download specific program information, forms, register for programs, download pre/post visit materials, maps and directions to parks

Program Registration

- Opens August 15
- Download registration form from website or contact park interpreter
- Limited slots - register early

The Joy of Discovery




Discover Carolina